

HB 2007 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on State Government

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS AND INTENT. On August 26, 1920,
4 with the action of the Tennessee legislature, the Nineteenth
5 Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified,
6 establishing the right to vote for most American women. However, this
7 right for some women occurred later: Native Americans generally by
8 1924; many Asians during the mid twentieth century; and many others
9 following enactment of voting rights legislation during the 1960's.

10 The introduction, passage, and ratification of the Nineteenth
11 Amendment were the result of decades of work and struggle by women's
12 voting rights advocates, throughout the United States, with people
13 from Washington state providing significant leadership.

14 In 1854, six years after the landmark women's rights convention
15 in Seneca Falls, New York, the Washington territorial legislature
16 initially considered enacting women's right to vote. Susan B. Anthony
17 visited Washington Territory in 1871, and addressed the Washington
18 Territorial Legislature, the first woman in the country to address a
19 state legislative body in session. This spurred the creation of many
20 women's right to vote associations in Washington and in other states.

21 State women's right to vote legislation eventually passed the
22 Washington Territorial Legislature twice, but each time was found
23 unconstitutional by the Territorial Supreme Court. With the 1910
24 approval of a state constitutional amendment by the male voters of
25 the state, Washington became the first state in the twentieth
26 century, and the fifth state overall, to enact women's right to vote
27 at the state level.

28 In 2009, the state of Washington posthumously awarded its highest
29 honor, the medal of merit, to the two key leaders of the Washington
30 women's right to vote movement, Emma Smith DeVoe and Mae Arkwright
31 Hutton.

1 The path to women's suffrage was blazed by western states.
2 Washington's action (1910) followed Wyoming (1890), Colorado (1893),
3 Utah (1870), and Idaho (1896). These successes were immediately
4 followed by California (1911) and Oregon (1912), in establishing
5 women's right to vote.

6 Washington was a major leader in the movement for nationwide
7 women's right to vote. Washington was the first state in the
8 twentieth century to fully enfranchise women, and inspired the
9 nationwide campaign that soon brought success in many western states
10 and the territory of Alaska, culminating in the Nineteenth Amendment
11 to the United States Constitution providing for American women
12 throughout the country to vote.

13 In 2010, the Washington women's history consortium provided
14 leadership for statewide commemoration of the centennial of
15 Washington state women's right to vote, sponsoring and coordinating a
16 wide range of statewide activities.

17 The centennial of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the
18 United States Constitution, in 2020, offers still greater
19 opportunities for Washingtonians to commemorate and educate
20 themselves and future generations about the importance of voting and
21 civic engagement. Washingtonians and the many visitors to Washington
22 will benefit from learning about and becoming inspired by the
23 historic efforts of the women's right to vote movement in Washington
24 and throughout the nation, and the subsequent impacts on life in
25 Washington and the United States.

26 Therefore, the legislature finds it beneficial to begin the
27 process of preparing for statewide commemoration from 2017 through
28 2020, of the centennial of the processes of congressional passage of
29 and states' legislative ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to
30 the United States Constitution, which established the right to vote
31 for American women.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** DUTIES OF CONSORTIUM. The Washington
33 women's history consortium shall:

34 (1) Provide leadership for statewide commemoration from 2017
35 through 2020 of the centennial pertaining to the passage by congress
36 of the Nineteenth Amendment and its subsequent ratification by three-
37 fourths of the state legislatures in August 1920;

38 (2) Immediately begin preparations for this statewide
39 commemoration, to include but not be limited to:

1 (a) Consulting with a wide variety of organizations,
2 institutions, public agencies, educational agencies and institutions,
3 tourism organizations, and the general public about the content and
4 conduct of this statewide commemoration;

5 (b) Developing and encouraging others to develop a broad range of
6 widely available educational opportunities for Washingtonians
7 generally, students, and visitors, including significant online
8 educational resources, to:

9 (i) Learn about the importance of voting in the context of women
10 gaining the right to vote;

11 (ii) Consider the subsequent long-term impacts of women gaining
12 the right to vote;

13 (iii) Learn about the active leadership role of Washingtonians in
14 achieving the nationwide right to vote for women;

15 (iv) Honor the countless participants in the women's suffrage
16 movement; and

17 (v) Inspire future generations to treasure their right to vote;

18 (c) Planning, coordinating, and publicizing events and
19 informational materials for Washingtonians and visitors throughout
20 the state commemorating this centennial;

21 (3) Create and distribute a portfolio of public humanities
22 programs, and encourage others to also do this, to engage
23 Washingtonians and visitors with important aspects of the women's
24 right to vote movement;

25 (4) Encourage private organizations, schools, institutions of
26 higher education, public agencies, and local governments to organize
27 and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of the
28 Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;

29 (5) Coordinate with the regional and national organizations and
30 agencies with respect to their commemorative work;

31 (6) Coordinate with the "national collaborative for women's
32 history sites" by contributing a Washington component to the
33 development of a nationwide "votes for women" trail; and

34 (7) Administer a grant program for public agencies, educational
35 institutions, and organizations exempt from taxation under Title 26
36 Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code to assist with
37 their commemoration activities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** POWERS OF CONSORTIUM. The consortium has
2 the following powers, and may exercise them as necessary to carry out
3 its duties:

4 (1) To appoint task forces and advisory committees;

5 (2) To work with staff appointed by the Washington state
6 historical society;

7 (3) To enter into agreements and contracts; and

8 (4) To solicit, accept, use, and dispose of grants and gifts.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** REIMBURSEMENT. (1) Legislative members
10 serving on the consortium or any task forces or advisory committees
11 created to further the purpose of the consortium must be reimbursed
12 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

13 (2) Representatives of state and local governments must be
14 reimbursed pursuant to the reimbursement policies of their respective
15 entity.

16 (3) Nonlegislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for
17 travel expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on
18 behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization.
19 Any reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to
20 chapter 43.03 RCW.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** REPORT TO GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE. The
22 consortium must report annually by December 1st to the governor and
23 the legislature on the work of the consortium, together with any
24 recommendations to the governor and legislature.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** EXPIRATION DATE. This chapter expires July
26 1, 2021.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act
28 constitute a new chapter in Title 27 RCW."

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1 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "suffrage;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new chapter to Title 27
3 RCW; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Makes the following changes to the underlying bill:

Provides clarification and technical corrections to the intent section and throughout the bill.

Allows the consortium to appoint task forces and advisory committees.

Allows the consortium to enter into agreements and contracts.

Requires the consortium consult with educational agencies and institutions and tourism organizations in addition to public agencies, the general public and other organizations and institutions.

Clarifies that educational opportunities be provided to Washingtonians generally, students and visitors and include significant online educational resources.

Requires the consortium honor the countless participants in the women's suffrage movement and inspire future generations to treasure their right to vote.

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